



NEWS

about
Connecticut
Women

CT General Assembly

Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

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State Legislature's Commission on Women Releases Poll

Although we live in one of the richest states in the nation, Connecticut residents worry about making ends meet.

Hartford – The CT General Assembly's Permanent Commission on Women (PCSW) released the results of a new opinion poll today. The PCSW commissioned the Center for Survey Research & Analysis at the University of Connecticut to conduct a poll of women and men in the state of Connecticut to determine public opinion about what women worry about the most. The poll includes responses on a wide range of issues including making ends meet, threats to job security, women's work lives, family issues, health care and violence against women.

Key Findings:

Economic insecurity is very high in Connecticut – and higher for women and people of color

- An overwhelming majority (9 in 10) of Connecticut residents cite making ends meet as one of the most important issues they face.
- Hispanic adults (at least 80%), over African American and White respondents, voice the most concern about providing for basic needs such as: food, housing, and energy.

Higher wages and equal pay are identified by both men and women as the best strategy to improve women's work lives.

- Nearly 9 in 10 women and men view higher pay and equal pay as the number one way to improve the work lives of women.

- The vast majority – 9 in 10 women and men – feel equal pay is an important work issue, and that it would greatly improve the work lives of women.

Workers are concerned about issues that threaten their job security – losing pay or a job if they are sick, losing their job or business, affording transportation, or taking time off to care for a family member.

- Being able to afford transportation to work is highlighted by 45% of workers, with Hispanics (70%) and African Americans (65%) noting greater concern as compared to Whites (39%).
- More than a third of workers (36%) worry about having trouble at work because of taking time off to care for a family member, more so for Hispanic workers (58%) than Whites (34%).

An overwhelming majority of both women and men are concerned about the cost of caring for children and about issues related to elderly family members.

- 86% of adult respondents cite finding and obtaining decent childcare as an area of concern.

Access to affordable healthcare and the consequences of illness increase family economic insecurity.

- More than half of respondents (52%) are worried about losing their health insurance, with a striking 81% of Hispanics and 76% of African Americans voicing this concern, versus Whites (46%).
- More than a third of workers in Connecticut (36%) don't have paid sick time. Over half of Hispanics don't have paid sick time; 46% of African Americans and 32% of Whites go without paid sick time at work.

An overwhelming majority of both men and women – 86% - believe that access to all types of contraception, including Plan B, should be available to women.

A striking number of respondents know women who have been physically abused or have experience unwanted sexual behavior.

- Reducing domestic violence, sexual assault and all types of violent crime is a high priority for over 90% of the respondents.

A random sampling of 700 adults (ages 20+) both men and women were surveyed using Random Digital Dialing with an over sample of African American and Hispanic adults.

The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women was established by the CT State Legislature in 1973. The Commission studies all matters concerning women, informs leaders about the nature and scope of discrimination, serves as a liaison between government and private interest groups concerned with services for women, promotes consideration of women

for governmental position and works with state agencies to assess programs and practices as they affect women.

The Center for Survey Research & Analysis (CSRA) at the University of Connecticut is a non-partisan, non-profit survey research facility dedicated to the study of public opinion. CSRA is nationally and internationally recognized as a leader in the field of public opinion research. The scope of CSRA projects ranges from national and international studies of public opinion and public policy to local community-based surveys.

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